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INTELLIGENCE REPORT
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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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SUBJECT LDP Policy Conference

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STATE	WAR	NAVY	JUSTICE	R & E	C & D	AAF					

Opposition within the Party

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1. A meeting of the executive committee of the LDP was held on 14 May 1947, at which Dr. Reif, a member of the Berlin city parliament, made a vigorous attack on Arthur Lieutenant, the deputy chairman of the party, whom he accused of arbitrary action in disregarding the committee's decisions. He said Lieutenant acted according to the "Führerprinzip" and had made a bad impression everywhere, especially through his confidential comments on the Oder-Neisse boundary.
2. Reif seems to have spoken as the representative of an opposition group which includes Carl-Hubert Schwennicke and Anton Schepke, also members of the city parliament. The personal nature of his criticisms, however, seems to indicate that he holds a private grudge against Lieutenant. The two men were joint business managers of the party when it was founded in 1945. After a few weeks Reif was removed on grounds of inefficiency at the insistence of Dr. Waldemar Koch, then chairman of the LDP. It is believed that Reif holds Lieutenant responsible for his dismissal.

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Party Meetings

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4. A convention of the Thuringian LDP was held in Erfurt on 7-8 June 1947, and was presided over by the state chairman, Finance Minister Leonhard Moog. A speaker [redacted] Comment: Not identified [redacted] discussing the Munich conference of minister-presidents sharply criticized the attitude of the representatives of the eastern zone and condemned them for leaving the conference without adequate reason. This speech met with enthusiastic applause in spite of the presence of representatives of the SDA. A guest delegate of the FDJ, who defended the action of the minister-presidents from the Russian Zone, was booted and shouted down. A resolution was adopted expressing the convention's disapproval of the minister-presidents' action.
5. About the same date, similar resolutions were adopted in Berlin by the local LDP organization and by the LDP youth organization. These resolutions, Document No. 603

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NO CHANGE in CLASSIFICATION SHEET

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which were reported in the Berlin press, are believed to represent the true views of the Liberal Democrats.

6. At the time of the Erfurt meeting, the party leaders Külz and Lieutenant were in Bielefeld attending a convention [redacted]. Upon their return on 9 June 1947 they were summoned to Karlshorst and severely reprimanded for the resolution which had been adopted at Erfurt. The Russians found fault with the lack of party discipline within the LDP, and with the independent policy pursued by the state organizations. The Russians said that they could not, under these circumstances, tolerate the holding of the zonal convention scheduled for 5-8 July 1947 in Erfurt, and the authorization for it was therefore suspended. The Soviet authorities were, however, slightly mollified by a statement already drawn up by Külz and Lieutenant, expressing approval of the procedure followed at Munich (published in Der Norden, 10 June). Arrangements were made for another discussion a few days later, also to be attended by Moog and Külz's son, Dr. Helmut Külz of Weimar, who had offered no objections to the passing of the Erfurt resolution.

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[redacted] Comment: The Minister-President of Saxony-Anhalt, Dr. Hübener (LDP), appears to have had little beforehand information as to the policy to be pursued by his SED colleagues at Munich. The protest which they issued bore his signature as well, but its context was unknown to him beyond the opening and concluding words. The complete document had been composed in Berlin before the meeting, and was carried to Munich for publication when the moment seemed opportune.)

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